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UNCLAS VIENNA 001472

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/I, EUR/ERA AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [AU](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR IRAQI TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT:
AUSTRIAN RESPONSE

REF: STATE 79107

This message is sensitive but unclassified.

[1](#)1. (SBU) EconPolCouns and Pol Unit Chief delivered reftel demarche to MFA head of Middle East/Africa Bureau Ralph Scheide on May 3. Scheide noted that Chancellor Schuessel had sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister al-Ja'afari, and that President Fischer had sent a greeting to President Talabani inviting him to visit Austria. Scheide said that the conclusions of the April 25 EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) had summed up European and Austrian views on the ITG. He thought it unlikely that the GoA would issue its own statement on the inauguration of the ITG, however.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Scheide hoped that an EU Troika mission to Iraq would be possible in the near future. Regarding the makeup of the ITG, Scheide said that representation in the new government should be as broad-based as possible, and that participation in decision-making should be a transparent, inclusive process. He emphatically agreed that criticism of the "ethnic composition" of the new government was off-base, adding that finding a way to bring Sunnis into the political process would be an essential element for a successful stabilization strategy.
Brown